

Volenski, Dina

From: California Public Utilities Commission <news@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 8:23 AM
To: Schuster, Melissa
Subject: A Monthly Newsletter From the CPUC



Ensuring Proper Planning for De-Energization



There are many safety initiatives underway at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as it works to assure Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. Safety-related articles will be featured again in future issues

By Elizaveta Malashenko, CPUC Safety and Enforcement Division Director

As Director of the Safety and Enforcement Division at the CPUC, I understand that power outages of any period of time can be very disruptive to the local economy, impair access to essential services, and pose health and safety risks.

As such, state law allows utilities to shut off power to customers (called de-energizing) only when a utility reasonably believes that there is an "imminent and significant risk" to safety, such as when strong winds may topple power lines or cause major vegetation-related damage to power

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Larkfield Wikiup neighborhood devastation from the October 2017 Santa Rosa Tubbs Firestorm

At the CPUC, this is an issue we take extremely seriously. That's why this past July, as our state

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lines and lead to increased risk of fires. Proactive de-energization is a drastic step, but in certain conditions, it is also a step that can save lives, protect property, and prevent fires. While de-

was dealing with a seemingly endless string of highly destructive wildfires, the CPUC put in place additional consumer protections for when utilities de-energize. [More](#)

Providing Safe, Clean, Reliable Water for Monterey Peninsula

By Commissioner Liane Randolph

Few issues confronting California are more complex and contentious than water. Our job at the CPUC is to ensure that we have the safe, clean, and reliable water supply we need in a state that is home to approximately 40 million people. The difficulty of that task was driven home yet again by the lengthy CPUC proceeding that culminated last month with a unanimous vote clearing the way for a much-needed desalination plan on the Monterey Peninsula.



Old Fisherman's Wharf waterfront in Monterey Bay, California

"Monterey Peninsula residents and businesses have been struggling with water constraints since the 1940s," an earlier CPUC ruling noted..."Public

and private interests have a long and contentious history of trying to find a viable solution to this problem. Conflicting community values have rendered other proposals unworkable and unachievable. We have been addressing these concerns at this CPUC alone since 1997--well over a decade. It is evident and timely that we must arrive at a supply-based solution and approve a project."

After our Sept. 13, 2018, vote on the desalination plant, which also certifies the environmental work both on a state and federal level, one local newspaper called our action a "decision for the history books." That's because it takes so many turns and accomplishes so much.

The Monterey Peninsula is a beautiful and special place, but its longstanding water problems became particularly acute in 2009. That's when the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a cease and desist order against the local water provider, California-American Water Co., because Cal-Am had spent years diverting about four times the amount of water to which it was entitled from the Carmel River. Since that time, the communities on the Peninsula have worked hard to try to resolve this issue that is so critical to their quality of life. In September 2016, the CPUC approved Cal-Am's purchase agreement with the Pure Water Monterey recycled water project, which will provide additional supply once operational. But even that innovative project was not sufficient to meet demand and more supply is needed. [More](#)

Addressing Biomass in California

By Michael Picker, CPUC President

With California's commitment to renewable energy and the growing concern about wildfires, biomass electrical generation has received a lot of attention recently as a tool for addressing both challenges, but for a number of reasons this approach still has a lot to overcome.

Both Senate Bill (SB) 901, signed recently by Governor Jerry Brown, and the May 2018 "California Forest Carbon Plan," put forward by the California Natural Resources Agency, CAL FIRE, and the California Environmental Protection Agency, call for increased state support for biomass, but the Carbon Plan also articulates part of the challenge.

"The costs of transporting forest biomass are significant relative to the material's value, so distance from source to processing site will determine commercial feasibility," the Plan states. "Regional and local approaches will also be better suited to discussions related to facility siting, economic development strategies, local impacts of forestry operations, and climate resilience of both natural resources and the human populations that depend on them.



Biomass timber removal down a forest footpath

Additionally, a clean energy policy has a different set of concerns than the issue of safety from wildfires. For clean energy, policymakers focus on emissions, price, and the ability of new resources to work together in ways that keep the lights on.

Fire safety revolves around reducing fuel, hardening communities to withstand ferocious fires, and clearing vegetation from near electric lines. While these policies are not contradictory, there are obstacles to making them work in harmony. [More](#)

Docket: Proceedings Filed at the CPUC in Sept. 2018

Proceeding Number • Filed Date • Filer

A1611002 • 020-Aug-2018 (reopened) • ORA/MILEY/CPUC
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Approval of the Results of its Second Preferred Resources Pilot Request for Offers. Application for rehearing of decision 18-07-023. [More](#)

A1504012 • 04-Sept-2018 • ALJ/COOKE/CPUC
Decision on intervenor compensation claim of center for accessible technology. [More](#)

P1809001 • 04-Sept-2018 • Direct Access Customer Coalition
Petition to adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 1708.5. [More](#)

A1608006 • 05-Sept-2018 • ALJ/ALLEN/CPUC
Decision granting compensation to Californians for Green Nuclear Power, Inc. For substantial contribution to decision 18-01-022. [More](#)

Proceeding Number • Filed Date • Filer

A1809005 • 05-Sept-2018 • Hearsay Social, Inc.
Application of Hearsay Social, Inc. for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013. [More](#)

A1712002 & A1712003 • 07-Sept-2018 • ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC
Decision approving energy storage agreements and associated cost recovery mechanisms. [More](#)

A1701013, A1701014, A1701015, A1701016, A1701017 • 07-Sept-2018 • ALJ/FITCH/CPUC
Proposed Decision addressing workforce requirements and third-party contract terms and conditions. [More](#)

R1407002 • 07-Sept-2018 • ALJ/KAO/CPUC
Proposed decision correcting and clarifying decision 18-06-027. [More](#)

[VIEW MORE FILINGS](#)

About this Publication

This monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of proposals by the CPUC's Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges, as well as utility applications, and other issues and work of note. We also include a list summarizing the filings at the CPUC in the previous month.

We want to hear from you! If you have topics you'd like us to cover or if you'd like to make comment on our proceedings or work, please contact us at outreach@cpuc.ca.gov or call (855) 421-0400. You can find information about events we are having at www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC's website at www.cpuc.ca.gov/newsletter.

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Volenski, Dina

From: Paydar, Naveed <Naveed.Paydar@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 12:50 PM
To: Bolin, Greg
Subject: Press Release: CPUC Acts to Further Protect State from Wildfires Related to Utility Electric Facilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**CPUC ACTS TO FURTHER PROTECT STATE FROM WILDFIRES
RELATED TO UTILITY ELECTRIC FACILITIES**

SAN FRANCISCO, October 25, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today acted to further protect the state from wildfires related to electric facilities by setting the framework to provide guidance on initial utility wildfire mitigation plans, and inviting the input of all stakeholders in guiding its approach.

Senate Bill 901 requires electric utilities to prepare and submit wildfire mitigation plans that describe the utilities' plans to prevent, combat, and respond to wildfires affecting their service territories. Through the proceeding it opened today, the CPUC will review the initial plans, and develop and refine the content of and process for review and implementation of wildfire mitigation plans to be filed in future years.

"This is the first of many steps the CPUC will take to implement Senate Bill 901, which addresses a number of issues in our jurisdiction related to wildfires," said CPUC President Michael Picker. "Our immediate task is to develop the first round of the annual utility wildfire mitigation plans and to consider requirements for subsequent plans in the future. This issue is vital for the safety of California and we will work quickly and diligently to get it done."

Investor-owned utilities have been required to develop wildfire mitigation plans since 2017. Senate Bill 901 modified those existing requirements in a number of ways, including requiring a more nuanced and detailed list of information that the utilities must provide in their plans. In addition, the CPUC will review the plans, modify the plans when necessary, and eventually adopt plans. The bill also directs the CPUC to pursue enforcement actions for non-compliance with the plans.

The utilities that are required to participate in this proceeding are Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, Liberty Utilities/CalPeco Electric, Bear Valley Electric Service, and Pacific Power.

The CPUC invites the input of all stakeholders in guiding its approach. The CPUC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and has long worked with CAL FIRE on improving wildfire mitigation. Based on that work and input from the parties, the proceeding opened today will include development of proposed guidance for what the electric utilities' wildfire mitigation plans should contain.

The proceeding opened today is the first step in implementing one central aspect of the sweeping requirements of Senate Bill 901. Because of California's recent experience that the wildfire season is beginning sooner and ending later, it is important to have the initial set of electric utility wildfire mitigation plans approved as close to the beginning of summer 2019 as possible, as directed in the legislation. As such, at times the proceeding may move very quickly, with either shortened deadlines or fewer rounds of input. All parties should be prepared to act on short deadlines so the CPUC can meet the legislative mandate, consistent with due process.

"Wildfires represent a serious and pervasive threat to the State, which will only intensify as our climate further changes," said Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen. "The proceeding we opened today is the first step in ensuring that the wildfire mitigation plans of our electric utilities meet the very high standards set forth in Senate Bill 901."

The proposal voted on is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M233/K780/233780452.PDF>.

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Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Bolin, Greg
Subject: Input Sought on Utility Fire Mitigation Plans
Attachments: image001.emz

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Stakeholder Guidance Sought for

Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans



Dear Greg Bolin, Vice Mayor, Paradise:

CPUC has opened proceeding R. 18-10-007 to guide and review investor owned electric utilities' wildfire mitigation plans. Stakeholders are urged to provide their input.

Why Provide Input:

Stakeholder input will assist in determining the scope of the proceeding, provide guidance to the electric utilities on what plans should contain, and will be integral to the review of final plans. Utility wildfire mitigation plans are central to California's strategy to prevent and prepare for catastrophic wildfires under SB 901, and stakeholder review and input is crucial.

Participation in this proceeding is your community's opportunity to provide guidance and review of wildfire plan components including:

- wildfire prevention strategies for electric utilities
- protocols for mitigating impacts of public safety power shutoffs
- utility procedures for maintenance and inspection of lines
- outreach to first responders and customers, including low-income, elderly, disabled, and those with limited English
- restoration of service after a wildfire

How:

In order to have the plans in place for traditional fire season, the CPUC has adopted an expedited schedule for this proceeding. Please be prepared to participate and give input by the following dates. Note that you must become a party to the proceeding to submit formal comments. Becoming a party is cost free and easy, please see this webpage or email public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov if you require assistance.

November 14, 2018: Give comments on the scope of the proceeding and discuss schedule and process at the prehearing conference at 10:30 am in Commission hearing room A, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. The prehearing conference will be webcast at: <http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc>

December 15, 2018 (date subject to change): Formal comments to instruct the electric utilities on their initial plans are due within 10 days of the Scoping Memo being issued. The Scoping Memo is scheduled to be issued in early December.

December 31, 2018: Submit informal comments between now and December 31, 2018 to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

February 2019: Wildfire mitigation plans are scheduled to be submitted in early February. Formal comments due within 20 days of their submittal.

Further Information:

Under SB 901 the following utilities are required to develop wildfire mitigation plans: PG&E, Southern California Edison, SDG&E, PacifiCorp/Pacific Power, Liberty Utilities, and Bear Valley/Golden State Water. The required elements of the plans can be found in PUC 8386 (c). These plans will be updated annually. The text of PUC 8386 (c), as well as further information on the scope and schedule of the proceeding can be found in the Order Instituting Rulemaking at: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M233/K780/233780452.PDF>

You can find further information for the proceeding, including links to all documents (the docket) and a subscription service at: <http://cpuc.ca.gov/SB901>

A GIS version of CPUC's fire threat map may be found at: <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/>

And of course, you may always contact me for further information or assistance.

Naveed Paydar, PhD
California Public Utilities Commission
(415) 703-1437

Volenski, Dina

From: Paydar, Naveed <Naveed.Paydar@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 1:45 PM
To: Zuccolillo, Mike
Subject: Input Sought on Utility Fire Mitigation Plans

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Stakeholder Guidance Sought for ***Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans***



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Naveed Paydar, PhD
California Public Utilities Commission
(415) 703-1437

Volenski, Dina

From: Paydar, Naveed <Naveed.Paydar@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 1:45 PM
To: Schuster, Melissa
Subject: Input Sought on Utility Fire Mitigation Plans

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Stakeholder Guidance Sought for ***Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans***



Dear Melissa Schuster, Council Member, Paradise:

CPUC has opened proceeding R. 18-10-007 to guide and review investor owned electric utilities' wildfire mitigation plans. Stakeholders are urged to provide their input.

Why Provide Input:

Stakeholder input will assist in determining the scope of the proceeding, provide guidance to the electric utilities on what plans should contain, and will be integral to the review of final plans. Utility wildfire mitigation plans are central to California's strategy to prevent and prepare for catastrophic wildfires under SB 901, and stakeholder review and input is crucial.

Participation in this proceeding is your community's opportunity to provide guidance and review of wildfire plan components including:

- wildfire prevention strategies for electric utilities
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- outreach to first responders and customers, including low-income, elderly, disabled, and those with limited English
- restoration of service after a wildfire

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From: Gill, Lauren
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 2:00 PM
To: Mattox, Marc;Hawks, David@CALFIRE;Reinbold, Eric;Will, Gina;Peters, Crystal;Baker, Craig;Marquis, Josh;Volenski, Dina;Curtis, Colette
Subject: FW: Input Sought on Utility Fire Mitigation Plans
Attachments: image001.emz

Let's discuss at the staff meeting on WEDNESDAY!

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In 2017, that number topped \$10 billion, an impressive new benchmark for a program CPUC President Michael Picker recently called "a great accomplishment" and one of the largest business-

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"While the goal is to increase competition and allow new entrepreneurs to compete on an even playing field, (the program) also enriches the same communities these companies sell their products and services to," President Picker said during his opening remarks at an Oct. 4 hearing on the program in Richmond that was attended by about 200 people. "It's a way to prevent utility dollars from leaking out of the state. It's a way to help build a business infrastructure that lasts and persists and sustains in communities."

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In the process, the program has become a critical driver of economic development and job creation in diverse communities across California, serving as a template for other states. [More](#)

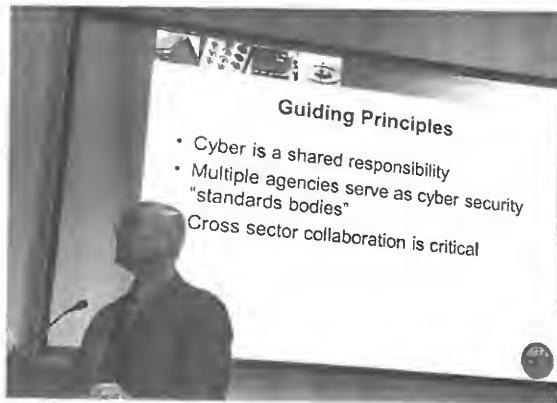
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By Commissioner Liane M. Randolph

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California's rail transit safety program has long been considered the gold standard of state rail transit safety programs, but federal certification is crucial because without it, more than \$1 billion in FTA transit grant funds could be withheld



CPUC workers inspecting a rail yard in Richmond

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Docket: Proceedings Filed at the CPUC in Oct. 2018

Proceeding Number • Filed Date • Filer

C1809016 • 26-Sept-2018 • American Sand Association

American Sand Association and Ecologic Partners, Inc., Complainants, vs. Union Pacific Railroad, Defendant [for Relief from Unlawful Closure of Public or Publicly-Used Crossings in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 1202.] [More](#)

A0701031, A0704028 • 01-Oct-2018 • Southern California Edison Company (U 338 E)

Applications for rehearing of Decision 18-08-026 (Valley-Ivy-glen 115 kV Subtransmission Line Project). City of Lake Elsinore: [More](#). Forest Residents Opposing New Transmission Lines: [More](#).

A181002 • 03-Oct-2018 • Ednetics, Inc.

Application of Ednetics, Inc. for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013. [More](#)

R1407002 • 05-Oct-2018 • ALJ/KAO/McKENZIE CPUC

Decision granting petition for modification of decision 14-05-033 regarding direct current-coupled solar plus storage system. [More](#)

Proceeding Number • Filed Date • Filer

R1807003 • 05-Oct-2018 • ALJ/ATAMTURK/CPUC

Proposed Decision implementing Assembly Bill 1923 provisions related to interconnection rules for the Bioenergy Feed-In-Tariff under the California Renewables Portfolio Standard. [More](#)

A1704010 • 08-Oct-2018 • ALJ/KLINE/CPUC

This decision grants Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) motion to withdraw this application without prejudice on condition that PG&E disclose Application 17-04-010 and this Decision in any subsequent application requesting a CPCN to provide telecommunications services filed by PG&E or brought by any of the applicant's current directors, officers, or owners of more than 10% of its outstanding shares. [More](#)

I1704009 • 08-Oct-2018 • ALJ/MASON/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting the Settlement Agreement, as amended, between Rasier-CA, LLC and the Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division regarding zero tolerance rules in Safety Requirement D of Decision 13-09-045. [More](#)

[VIEW MORE FILINGS](#)

Happy Holidays! Our newsletter will return in January 2019.

About this Publication

This monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of proposals by the CPUC's Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges, as well as utility applications, and other issues and work of note. We also include a list summarizing the filings at the CPUC in the previous month.

We want to hear from you! If you have topics you'd like us to cover or if you'd like to make comment on our proceedings or work, please contact us at outreach@cpuc.ca.gov or call (855) 421-0400. You can find information about events we are having at www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC's website at www.cpuc.ca.gov/newsletter.

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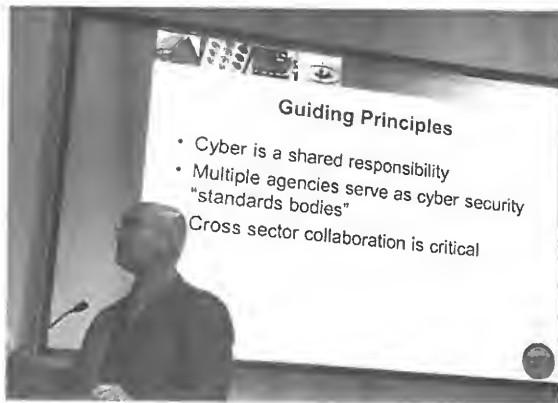
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Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Bolin, Greg
Subject: Save the Date: CPUC Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC TO HOLD STATE'S FIRST WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION SUMMIT

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WHAT: Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit

WHEN: Two days: March 20, 2019, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and March 21, 2019, 8 a.m. - noon

WHERE: Sacramento, CA

WHY: To initiate an ongoing dialogue between the technology industry, academic researchers, utilities, and government on the needs and tools to address wildfire challenges.

"We cannot just accept devastating wildfires as the new normal. California is the global leader in technology and innovation. We can develop game-changing solutions and get ahead of this problem," said CPUC President Michael Picker.

Summit attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts, practitioners, and entrepreneurs and discuss innovative technologies, strategies, and practical tools.

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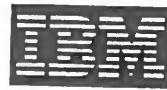
Visit <http://firetechsummit.cpuc.ca.gov/> for information on cost of attendance and a draft agenda. Additional information, including location address, will be posted on the site as it becomes available.

While a quorum of Commissioners and/or their staff may attend, no official action will be taken.

If specialized accommodations are needed to attend, such as non-English or sign language interpreters, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or toll free at 866-849-8390 at least three business days in advance of the event, if possible.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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If specialized accommodations are needed to attend, such as non-English or sign language interpreters, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or toll free at 866-849-8390 at least three business days in advance of the event, if possible.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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From: Paydar, Naveed <Naveed.Paydar@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Gill, Lauren
Subject: Save the Date: CPUC Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

CPUC TO HOLD STATE'S FIRST WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION SUMMIT

SAN FRANCISCO, November 26, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in conjunction with other state entities and private partners, will host the state's first convening of thought leaders and practitioners from state and local governments, academia, and the technology industry to discuss the challenges of wildfires and tools that can help better manage these devastating disasters.

WHAT: Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit

WHEN: Two days: March 20, 2019, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and March 21, 2019, 8 a.m. - noon

WHERE: Sacramento, CA

WHY: To initiate an ongoing dialogue between the technology industry, academic researchers, utilities, and government on the needs and tools to address wildfire challenges.

"We cannot just accept devastating wildfires as the new normal. California is the global leader in technology and innovation. We can develop game-changing solutions and get ahead of this problem," said CPUC President Michael Picker.

Summit attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts, practitioners, and entrepreneurs and discuss innovative technologies, strategies, and practical tools.

Wildfires in California are occurring more often and are more destructive than ever. There are nearly four million Californians who live in high fire-risk areas defined by the [CPUC's fire hazard map](#), which makes up 44 percent of California's land mass. There are 1.4 million housing units within the high fire threat areas. Further, it is estimated that 4.2 million wooden utility poles and 200,000 miles of overhead electric distribution lines cross through these expanding high fire hazard areas to serve these growing populations.

The CPUC is one of the government agencies tasked with ensuring that investor-owned utilities operate a safe and reliable grid. To ensure public safety in this time of increased wildfire occurrence, the CPUC is addressing wildfires in many settings, including initiating regulatory proceedings, implementing new legislation such as Senate Bill 901 (Dodd, 2018), engaging with communities on de-energization programs, and working with other state agencies on developing wildfire plans.

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From: Paydar, Naveed <Naveed.Paydar@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Zuccolillo, Mike
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